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THE COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

WHY SEVEN STATES CHANGED MOST OF THEIR CONGRESSMEN.

Consider for a moment these figures showing the number of Democrats and of Republicans in the Congress from seven states and the number of each that will sit in the Congress selected last Tuesday.

	Present Congress		New Congress	
	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.
New York	31	11	21	22
New Jersey	10	2	3	9
Connecticut	5	—	—	5
Pennsylvania	12	18	5	28
Massachusetts	8	8	5	11
Ohio	19	3	10	12
Illinois	20	4	10	14

In the table the Progressives and Socialists are purposely omitted.

These states are selected for the purpose of comparison because they are the chief industrial commonwealths of the United States. In them industry is most diverse and most highly organized. In these seven states are more than one-third of the people of the whole Union. As a barometer of public opinion, as an index to business conditions, their political action may fairly be taken as authoritative.

But in these seven commonwealths two years of President Wilson's administration results in reducing their Democratic representation in Congress from 105 to 54 and increasing their Republican representation from 46 to 92.

What has caused this complete reversal of political sentiment in seven states, all of which, save one, gave their electoral votes to Woodrow Wilson?

Mainly the commercial and industrial depression brought upon the nation as a whole by the tariff legislation which was dictated by the administration, and which by executive action was stripped even of the few features incorporated in it for the extension of American trade and the development of an American merchant marine.

The Congress, members of which have been thus vigorously disciplined for their part in the tariff legislation, which not only failed to reduce the high cost of living, but reduced the opportunities to make a living, was not wholly, perhaps not mainly, responsible for its disastrous results.

Under the able leadership of Oscar Underwood, who has just been elected to the Senate, the Ways and Means Committee showed comprehension of the fact that tariff revision does not merely mean cutting down a lot of duties. They recognized that a new tariff law not merely offered an opportunity to reduce the cost of some things to the American consumer, but that it also should be utilized to open new markets to the American producer.

Accordingly they accompanied the legislation which opened our markets to the foreign producers, with a reciprocity clause which authorized the president to use this as an inducement to foreign nations to join in reciprocity treaties which would open their markets to our producers.

And knowing that the best way to stimulate trade is to aid in the creation of a merchant marine to serve our shippers, they directed—not merely authorized—the Secretary of the Treasury to grant to imports coming to American bottoms a preferential duty amounting to a reduction of about 5 per cent.

The authority conferred upon the president to negotiate the reciprocity treaties he has ignored.

The specific direction for the preferential duties the president has arbitrarily set aside by an executive order.

Recent history has made familiar the results of President Wilson's nullification of these essential parts of his party's tariff law.

Our markets thrown wide open to foreign manufacturers were instantly flooded with goods. Our manufacturers languished. Factories were shut down. Workmen were thrown out of employment. The rapidly increasing balance of trade against us—amounting to more than \$200,000,000 before the declaration of war in Europe—had to be met in gold. As a result interest rates went up exceeded even those in London and Paris, face to face with war. A tight money market discouraged new enterprise. A tariff that gave everything and exacted nothing in re-

turn discouraged established enterprises. As a result business depression spread and still continues.

And as a further result the American people, whose common sense is generally equal to detecting causes, rendered a political decision in which the significant figures quoted above form but one count.—S. F. Examiner.

Last year the St. Helens School District had a four mill levy with which to raise funds to conduct the school for the year. At the meeting which made this levy there were only a handful of people who were of the opinion that a small levy would be economy. In that idea they were undoubtedly mistaken. The result shows that the district has been compelled to issue warrants and endorse them up to more than \$8000 while a reasonable levy would have produced sufficient funds with which to carry on the school work without having to pay interest on this amount. This year the levy will of necessity be considerably higher than that of last year in order to maintain the school and pay off the debts caused by the exceedingly low levy of last year. It would have been better wisdom to have levied a tax sufficient to meet the demands last year and the same this year, instead of being compelled this year to make up the deficiency by the low tax of last year. The school board has in this issue of the Mist a budget showing the condition of the finances of the school district which every taxpayer should carefully study. At the meeting on the 23rd of this month there should be a large attendance of tax payers who have given the matter consideration and a tax sufficient to carry on the school should be levied. No more important governmental expense exists than that of the school. We have an excellent school now which is up to the standard of the needs of the community. This standard should be maintained and the only way it can be done is to raise enough money to pay the necessary expenses. Do not forget to attend the meeting on November 23rd.

Every indication points to a session of economy when the Legislature convenes in Salem next January. There is hardly a man elected to that body who has not pledged himself to economy, and to judge from the character of the men elected, it is fairly safe to say that the 1915 Legislature will go down in history as the most careful and economical session ever held in Oregon. The excessively high taxes of the past few years has been the cause of great hardships on the tax payers and there is a tendency to trim every appropriation down to the limit, as well as to kill all useless ones. With all the members having the same object in view it should not be a difficult matter to accomplish great things for the tax payers at the coming session.

Now that there has been built a walk across Columbia street so that people may cross the street without wading in mud and water, there is another condition that should be remedied. The walk leading across Casenau street near the school house where hundreds of school children cross every day is, after a rain, just a mud hole. It is impossible to cross this place and keep dry feet. It is due the children of the city to have this place repaired. Two or three loads of crushed rock will do it. It should be done.

Credit is due to District Attorney Dillard for the manner in which the tax cases against Columbia County were handled by him. Six cases involving more than \$12,000 were handled by Mr. Dillard and his experience and capabilities have proved to be of great value to the tax payers of the county. He won the cases. Columbia County is better off by \$12,000 by winning them.

The people of the county will soon be looking for announcements of the merchants of Christmas goods. No place to keep the public informed of such announcements as in the local paper. If any merchant desires our help in preparing his ads a phone call or card will result in a call and submission of sample ads and ideas.

A Christmas shipload of toys, etc., is being loaded at New York for the children of the nations at war. Would probably be more appropriate to send a few sacks of flour and some beans or other foods instead of toys.

With the price of wheat lost in the clouds the American farmer is not making any pronounced objections to the war.

Each government reports the situation as "satisfactory" which ought to make the war a highly popular event.

Civilization slowly emerges from barbarism and hastily returns from whence it came.

The cost of living is still high.

RELATION OF SIZE OF BUSINESS TO THE FARMER'S INCOME.

A careful study by government experts in regard to the profits made by a large number of farmers in different parts of the United States shows that the size of the farm business is one of the most important factors controlling the farmer's income. The problem of how large an investment is needed in order to carry on a certain type of farming to advantage is of the utmost importance. The amount of this investment will vary according to the type of farming and to the region selected.

In a survey of over 100 farms in an irrigated district in Utah only three owners, with less than \$10,000 total capital, received a labor income of more than \$1,000 for their year's work.

By labor income in this case is meant what remains of the net income after deducting 5 per cent for invested capital and working capital; in other words, what the farmer himself receives for his year's work and supervision.

In a group of 35 of these men, who had small farms and an average capital of \$5,345, the average labor income was \$235. One out of every five received nothing for his labor and made less than 5 per cent interest on his farm investment. With high-priced land this amount of capital gave him an area to utilize to advantage. If land were cheaper, so that a much larger area could be obtained with this same amount of money, then \$10,000 might be a sufficient investment to give the farmer an substantial income.

In the Central States, where corn, wheat, and oats are the prevailing crops and where land is from \$150 to \$250 an acre, \$10,000 would be entirely too small an investment to yield the owner a good income, for the reason that 40 to 50 acres—the total amount of land he could possibly buy with this amount of money—would not utilize his teams, machinery, or labor to the fullest advantage.

On the other hand, the number of acres is not always a true measure, as a big business can be conducted on a small area; 20 acres of truck and small fruits may equal a 200-acre farm devoted to grain, hay, cattle and hogs. It is the type of farming that determines the number of acres necessary for efficient operation. Many persons have made the mistake of buying a high priced land for successful general farming. In other words, they paid truck-farming prices for land which, on account of market relations, should be used for only grain and general farming.

The proportion of the total investment that should be used as working capital is equally as important as size of investment. Generally speaking, about 75 to 88 per cent of the farmer's investment is in real estate, the other 12 to 25 per cent being in live stock and other equipment. This proportion will vary according to the type of farming followed. In regions where dairying is the main enterprise the amount of working capital may represent one-fourth of the entire investment.

A third point in the consideration of the farmer's investment is the quality of material in which working capital is invested. This is especially true in regard to live stock. Investigations relating to profits in farming show conclusively that the efficiency of the animals to which the crops are fed is one of the most important factors in determining the farmer's net income. This is to be expected, since on many farms in this country the bulk of the crop is in reality fed to the dairy herd or to meat-producing animals. If these are of such poor quality that they yield low returns for their feed, the income to the farmer must be correspondingly small. Hence, no matter how large the total investment, if the quality of the equipment is deficient financial failure is inevitable.

METHODIST NOTES

Sunday School at 10 a. m.
There are classes for all ages in this school. A new class for young married people has just been organized. If you are not going to another school we invite you to attend here.

Preaching at 11 a. m. The theme will be, "The Ideal Church." Be sure to hear this special sermon.

Epworth League at 6:30 p. m. Topic, "The Call to Heroic Service."

Preaching at 7:30 p. m. Theme, "A Treasure to be Guarded." Following this sermon there will be a reception of members.

Special music will be rendered by the choir at both preaching services and good congregational singing will also be enjoyed by all.

REV. FRANK SANDIFER
Pastor.

Select your fancy dishes for Xmas while the assortment is good. Noah's Ark.

KODAKS

Eastman Photographic Supplies

Developing and Printing

DEMING'S DRUG STORE

Rexall and Nyal Goods

DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EARLY

This advice at this particular time is addressed to the

MERCHANTS

An important part of a merchant's shopping is

ADVERTISING

The columns of the

St. Helens Mist

Offer to the wide awake merchants the best methods of reaching the people of this community. Tell them about your goods and your prices.

Let the intending purchaser know what you have to sell and that your prices are

MONEY SAVERS

Advertising pays when it reaches the people. That's what the Mist does. Everybody reads the

ST. HELENS MIST

Let us know what you want and we will help you

BETTER RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW.

WHEN ATTENDING THE MANUFACTURERS AND LAND PRODUCTS SHOW

OCTOBER 26 TO NOVEMBER 14
PORTLAND, OREGON

MAKE YOUR HEADQUARTERS AT

The New Perkins Hotel

Rooms without Bath	\$1.00
Rooms with Bath	\$1.50

A RESTAURANT WITH FOOD AND PRICES RIGHT

C. H. SHAFER, Manager